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Queen's Favorite.  
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# THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC

MAGAZINE  
SECTION



THE DAY BEFORE THE MASSACRE.

## Romances of The LOUISIANA PURCHASE No. 2.

The Only Indian Attack on  
St. Louis. An Important  
Revolutionary Episode.

**T**HIS is the second of a series of articles, written especially for The Sunday Republic, dealing with romantic incidents connected with the early history of St. Louis and Louisiana. Each of the articles is complete in itself and, as far as possible, accurate in its relation of facts.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.  
**P**ERHAPS it was Fate which caused the selection of May 26, 1781, instead of the day previous, as the time for the only Indian attack ever made upon St. Louis.

Perhaps it was only the stupidity of the band of 50 Indians, allies of the British, and their four white leaders, Langdon, Clave, Ducharme and Quesselle, renegade Frenchmen from Canada.

But whatever the cause, the delay of a day prevented a wholesale massacre, although it did not avert a horrible tragedy; and the expedition which was to have resulted in the razing of the village, the death or capture of all its inhabitants, and the utter destruction of the only important settlement on the west side of the Mississippi River resulted only in the killing of a score of men, the capture of an equine number, and the ignominious repulse of the invaders.

The attack was a result of the War of the Revolution. This was a war in which St. Louis, nor any of Louisiana, had any active part or interest. For two years after the framing of the Declaration of Independence the territory on the west bank of the river was of one nationality; that between the Mississippi River and the Allegheny Mountains was of another, and that lying east of the Alleghenies was of still a third.

Here it was a French population, under Spanish government; and away, it was British territory, held by a few unimportant posts, and on the opposite side was American territory, populated by Americans, governed by Americans, and defended by Americans.

Both Spanish and French hated the British. When, by the same secret treaty which had conveyed Louisiana to Spain, Great Britain had come into possession of the territory east of the river, a large majority of the French settlers had migrated to the western bank, that they might join their more fortunate compatriots, and, with them, live under the rule of Spain.

This hatred for the British, however, caused a negative friendship for the American colonists. In the minds of the Spanish and French inhabitants of St. Louis, Americans and British were much alike.

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"Progress of  
the  
Century."

Electricity,

Elihu Thomson,  
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